

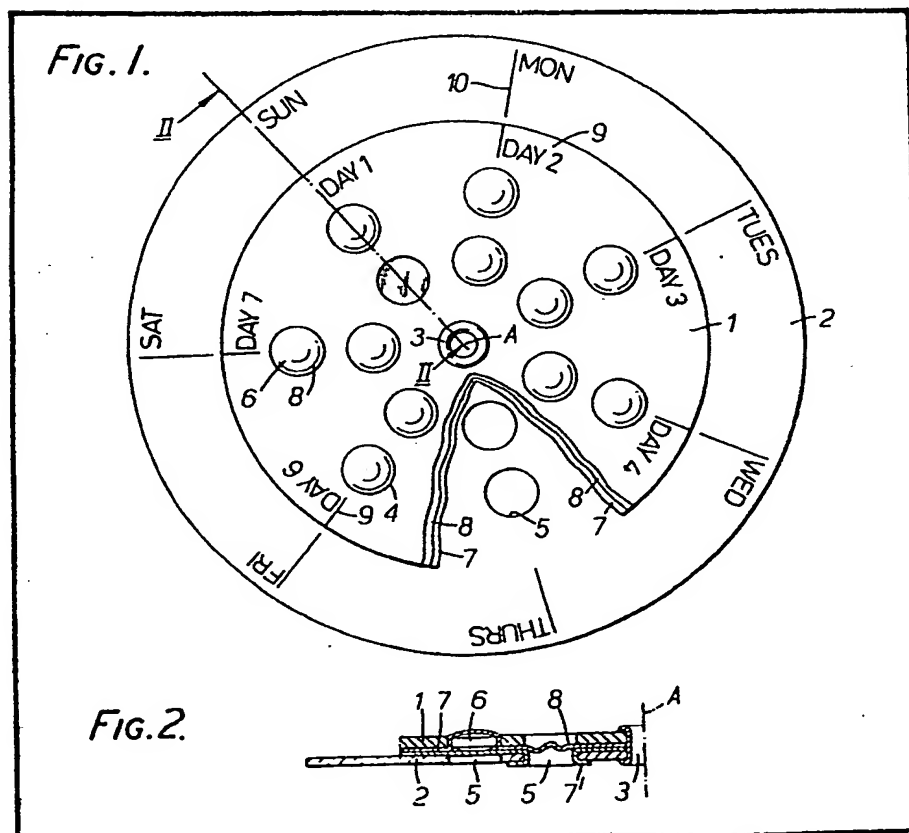
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(54) A pack of medicinal pills

(57) A pack of medicinal pills 6 comprises two cardboard discs 1 and 2 relatively turnable about a rivet 3, the disc 1 being formed with holes 4 registrable with holes 5 in the disc 2. The pills are housed in the holes 4 in a blister pack consisting of a foil layer 7

and a thin plastics layer 8. The discs 1 and 2 are provided with reference markings 9 and 10. The patient dispenses the pills 6 from the pack by pushing the pills 6 through the layer 7, and can be instructed to fold the torn portions of the layer 7 back beneath the disc 2 to deter further relative turning of the discs 1 and 2.



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The drawing originally filed was informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.

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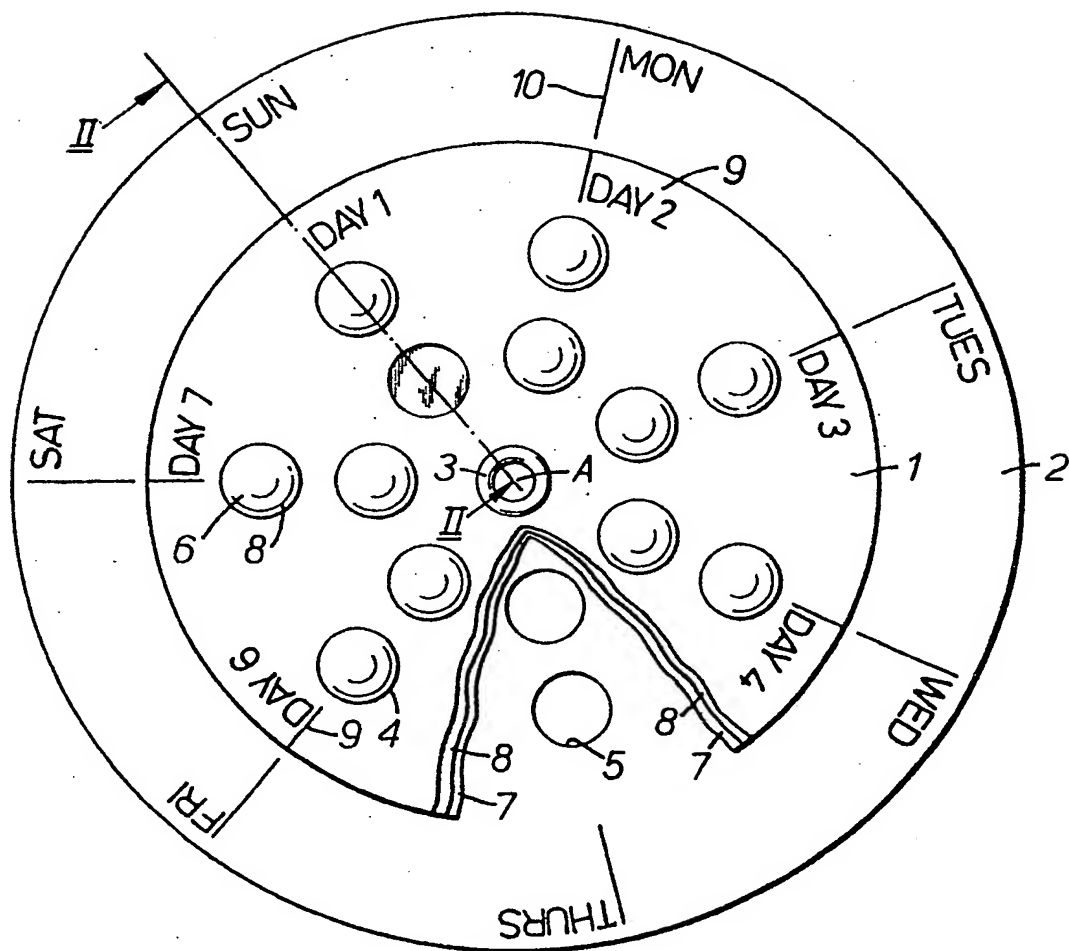


FIG. 1.

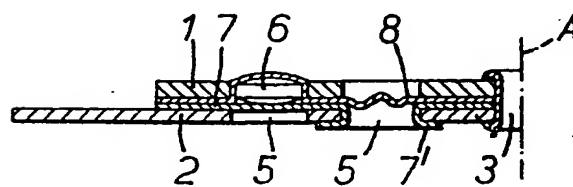


FIG. 2.

SPECIFICATION

A pack for articles

According to the present invention, there is provided a pack of articles, comprising first and second members movable relative to each other, guiding means for guiding that relative movement, reference means provided on the first and second members and capable of being brought, by said relative movement, into a desired relationship, in which holes in the first member are aligned with holes through the second member, said articles being received in the respective holes in the first member, and portions of flexible, frangible material attached to the first member and located between the articles, on the one hand, and the respective holes in the second member, on the other hand, the arrangement being such that, in dispensing one of said articles from said pack, the user pushes said one of said articles from the receiving hole in the first member through the aligned hole through the second member and thereby breaks the relevant one of said portions and causes it to extend in the aligned hole, where it locates said first and second members relative to each other in said desired relationship.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood and readily carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 shows a fragmentary plan view of a pack containing medicinal pills, and

Figure 2 shows a section taken on the line II—II of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing, the pack comprises upper and lower horizontal cardboard discs 1 and 2 concentrically connected together by a rivet 3 so as to be rotatable relative to each other in a guided manner about a vertical axis A. Equispaced around the axis A are a plurality of, in this case seven, radial rows of holes 4 through the disc 1 and seven radial rows of holes 5 through the disc 2, the holes 4 being in registry with the holes 5 in the illustrated relative position of the discs 1 and 2. In the holes 4 are respective medicinal pills 6 which are housed in the holes in a blister pack consisting of a base layer of foil 7 and a top layer of thin plastics 8 with the pills 6 sandwiched between them, the layers 7 and 8 extending between the discs 1 and 2, except where the plastics layer extends over the individual pills. Equispaced around the axis A are seven reference markings 9 printed adjacent the periphery of the disc 1 and denoting days numbered 1 to 7, and seven reference markings 10 printed adjacent the periphery of the disc 2 and denoting the seven days of the week, each marking 9 or 10 including a radial line for accuracy of registration of the holes 4 and 5, the radial lines of the markings 9 being aligned with the respective radial rows of holes 4.

Assuming that a doctor has prescribed these pills for a patient who is to take them in pairs in the order indicated by "DAY 1", "DAY 2", etc.,

then the patient is advised to turn the discs 1 and 2 relative to each other to set the "DAY 1" marking against that day of the week on which he begins to take the pills. The patient removes the pills from the pack by pushing downwards on the pills so that they break through the foil layer 7 and pass through the appropriate holes 5. The patient can be instructed to fold the torn portions 7' of the layer 7 back beneath the disc 2, as illustrated in Figure 2, this deterring further relative turning of the discs.

Among the advantages of the pack shown are that, even if the patient forgets whether he has taken the pills for a particular day a glance at the pack will tell him.

Although use of the pack is not restricted to the medical field, it is of particular use for ethical and proprietary medicines and also in the area of clinical trial evaluation of medicines, where these are required to be taken or administered in sequential or other predetermined order.

In addition, if the pack is returned to the issuer after use, then the issuer can obtain an indication as to the degree and/or correctness of use.

Each member 9 or 10 can be of any desired shape, as can the pills 6 and the holes 4 and 5. Moreover, the number of reference markings on each member 9 or 10 can be other than seven, and for some uses the reference markings on one member can differ in number from those on the other.

Claims

1. A pack of articles, comprising first and second members movable relative to each other, guiding means for guiding that relative movement, reference means provided on the first and second members and capable of being brought, by said relative movement, into a desired relationship, in which holes in the first member are aligned with holes through the second member, said articles being received in the respective holes in the first member, and portions of flexible, frangible material attached to the first member and located between the articles, on the one hand, and the respective holes in the second member, on the other hand, the arrangement being such that, in dispensing one of said articles from said pack, the user pushes said one of said articles from the receiving hole in the first member through the aligned hole through the second member and thereby breaks the relevant one of said portions and causes it to extend in the aligned hole, where it locates said first and second members relative to each other in said desired relationship.
2. A pack as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement is such that, in dispensing said one of said articles as aforesaid, the user not only breaks said relevant one of said portions and causes it to extend in said aligned hole, but also causes it to extend through said aligned hole to project from said second member, so that said user can bend outwards such projection.

3. A pack as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said portions comprise metal foil.
4. A pack as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said members comprise cardboard discs.
5. A pack as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said guiding means comprises a rivet acting as a pivot.
6. A method of dispensing one of a plurality of articles from a pack comprised of first and second members movable relative to each other, guiding means for guiding that relative movement, holes in the first member receiving said articles, holes through the second member, and portions of flexible, frangible material attached to the first member and located between the articles, on the one hand, and the respective holes in the second member, on the other hand, said method comprising producing said relative movement to bring said first and second members into a desired relationship, in which the holes in the first member are aligned with the holes through the second member, pushing said one of said articles from the receiving hole in the first member through the aligned hole through the second member and thereby breaking the relevant one of said portions and causing it to extend in the aligned hole, where it locates said first and second members relative to each other in said desired relationship.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6 and further comprising bending outwards a projection of said relevant one of said portions from said second member at that side of said second member furthest from said first member.
8. A pack of articles, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.
9. A method of dispensing one of a plurality of articles from a pack, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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